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*Congress of the United States*  
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March 16, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I urge the U.S. Department of the Interior to expeditiously delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). All scientific evidence points to a significant recovery of the species making it long overdue for the Department of the Interior to act and transfer management to Michigan and other states.

When the gray wolf was listed under the ESA in 1974, it truly was endangered and on the verge of disappearing from the United States. However, evidence provided by the Department of the Interior demonstrates that there are more than 5,500 wolves today. In Michigan alone the wolf population was nearly extinct when the wolf was listed. Conservative estimates by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) today place the population in Michigan at 577 in 2009. This population recovery indicates that the ESA has accomplished its purpose and provides an example of how proper management can restore an endangered species.

Any further delay in delisting the gray wolf will run contrary to proper implementation of the ESA. Even after delisting, the ESA provides a number of backup protections for the gray wolf should the population dramatically decrease. Given the number of protections and resources in place by the state and federal government, it is time to move forward with the delisting. The Michigan DNRE has prepared a wolf management plan that I am confident will better meet the needs of Northern Michigan than continued protection for the gray wolf under the ESA.

Again, I encourage you to expeditiously delist the gray wolf and finalize its transition toward state management. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I await your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

**BART STUPAK**  
Member of Congress  
BTS/ef

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